FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 AUGUST 1984

Lebanon

Israeli Air Raid — Israeli Air Force planes attacked a "terrorist" base in the Al-Biqa' valley region that served as a regional command headquarters for "launching attacks," Jerusalem radio reported. While Beirut radio identified the base as belonging to the PFLP-GC Palestinian group, Jerusalem radio described the target as a base used by members of the dissident Fatah faction led by Sa'id Musa Muragha. During a press conference in Shtawrah, Al-Biqa' reported by Radio Monte Carlo, Sa'id Musa had earlier claimed responsibility for placing a bomb in Jerusalem that was intended to destroy the Herut Party headquarters. Jerusalem radio had reported that an "explosive charge" in a car was successfully defused in Jerusalem on 15 August. In remarks broadcast by the radio, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens denied that the air strike was linked to the bombing attempt, but rather was part of the "continuous fight against terrorism everywhere."

Iranian Envoy — The Iranian charge d'affaires arrived in Beirut to resume his duties following the restoration of relations between Lebanon and Iran, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Red Sea

The Cypriot vessel *Theoupolis* became the 17th ship to hit a mine in the Red Sea when it sustained "serious damage" on 15 August, Nicosia radio reported, citing Lloyd's of London. Meanwhile, MENA noted the arrival at Suez of a U.S. naval vessel with minehunter helicopters on board that will participate in mine sweeping operations along with British and French ships.

Gulf Conflict

The Pakistani tanker *Johar* was attacked on 15 August near Bahrain by an "unidentified" aircraft as the vessel was on its way to Saudi Arabia, Karachi radio reported. The two missiles fired at the ship missed, and no damage was sustained. Monitored Iranian and Arab sources have not mentioned the attack.

Maghreb

Libya-Morocco Union — The recently announced union between Libya and Morocco is "not directed against anybody," and Algeria and Tunisia have been invited to join, according to official Moroccan sources cited by the London paper *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*. The Moroccan king's adviser stated that Syria has also been invited to "accede" to the agreement as a first step toward other Arab countries' involvement, the paper added.

In a related development, diplomatic sources in Paris cited by KUNA stated that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had proposed during his talks with Algerian and Tunisian leaders that a summit meeting be held on 1 September in Tripoli.

Libya-SFRY Agreement — Libya and Yugoslavia signed a military cooperation agreement during the visit to Belgrade by Libyan Armed Forces Inspector General Mustafa al-Kharrubi, JANA reported.

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Reportage on Battles With Rebel Resistance

Fighting Near Kabul, Baghlan

BK101546 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Reports from Afghanistan speak of continued fighting between Soviet-Karmal forces and Afghan mujahidin in various parts of the country. The mujahidin killed 34 Soviet-Karmal soldiers and destroyed 3 tanks and 7 military vehicles during recent operations in areas around Kabul. They also foiled the Soviet-Karmal forces' attack near Baghlan and forced them to retreat. Several Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed and three tanks were destroyed in this attack.

Soviets Drop Napalm

GF141952 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 14 Aug 84

[Summary] According to a report from the mujahidin, four Soviet tanks were destroyed and tens of enemy soldiers killed and wounded in an operation in the (Haji Nazar Jan Bagh) area of Qandahar. The report adds that the mujahidin attacks on the enemy continue along the Herat-Qandahar highway in the region of (Haji Nazar Jan Bagh). The mujahidin have destroyed two other Soviet tanks in the area and have captured 14 weapons.

In (Dilbarjan Bagh) of Qandahar Province, after a series of clashes between the mujahidin and Soviet-Karmal soldiers, the Soviets bombarded local villages with aircraft and helicopter gunships, dropping napalm on the people. The bombardment killed and wounded tens of innocent villagers. Local crops were burned. The Soviet aircraft also dropped some bombs on their own soldiers, resulting in several Soviet-Karmal soldiers being reported killed and wounded.

A report from Panshir Valley reports that the mujahidin, after vacating a part of the valley, continued their attacks and killed several occupationist soldiers with mines planted in the area. Another such report says that during recent skirmishes in Panshir Valley, the Soviets lost 15 helicopters and 17 aircraft. Reports from Kabul Province indicate that the mujahidin killed 14 Karmal mercenaries in a rocket attack in the (Kota Sangi) area.

3 Kabul 'Officials' Executed

GF161743 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Summary] Reports received indicate that mujahidin hit a Soviet military convoy moving from Gardez to Kabul in (Shekh Karam) District and caused heavy losses. The Soviet MiG aircraft bombarded Langar area in (Zigadan) region of Herat Province, killing and wounding many civilians. The report added that the Soviet aircraft dropped 17 napalm bombs in the area. A mujahidin source reported that on 29 July the mujahidin captured three officials of the Kabul regime, tried them in a revolutionary court, and executed them. The report did not indicate whether these three persons were military or civilian.

According to a captured Soviet soldier, the Soviet soldiers suffer liver ailments. The Soviet soldiers also use narcotics and are savagely disciplined and oppressed by their superiors. This makes many Soviet and Karmal soldiers defect. The Karmal soldiers who defect join the mujahidin. The Soviet soldier added that the Soviet soldiers cannot sleep at night for the fear of mujahidin attacks.

In another attack in the Hazarajat region, the mujahidin destroyed several tanks and communications vehicles. They also killed several Soviet and Karmal soldiers. In this fight, the mujahidin also downed eight Soviet helicopters.

Mujahidjin Commander Killed

LD161951 Riyadh SPA in English 1913 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] London, Aug 16, SPA — Eighteen Soviet-Karmal troops were killed and an armoured car destroyed when a group of mujahidin led by Commander Mullah Rohi Mohammad attacked a military post in the Central Palace in Qandhar City on July 28, the AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY reported today.

The agency said Commander Mullah and one of his companions were martyred and that the mujahidin had to move towards their hideouts because of the heavy shelling mounted by the Kabul regime's communist troops.

On the other hand, an armoured car with its crew was destroyed by the mujahidin who fired at a mobile contingent with rockets near border town of Spin Buldak on Qandhar-Chamman Highway on July 25.

It was learnt that the traffic at the highway remained suspended for two days as a result of the mujahidin attack.

Soviet Supply Center Attacked

BK171029 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Aug 84

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have attacked a military supply center of the Soviet-Karmal forces at Qala Zal on the Salang highway in Baghlan Province on 2 August. They set fire to petrol and diesel tanks there, inflicting heavy loss of life on the Soviet-Karmal forces. Relief operations continued for 3 days. In another clash between Afghan mujahidin and Soviet-Karmal forces in Baghlan, two tanks of the Soviet-Karmal forces were damaged and their crewmen were killed.

2 Killed by Police Fire in Andhra Pradesh

BK170944 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Aug 84

[Excerpt] In Andhra Pradesh, two persons were killed when police opened fire to disperse a violent crowd at (Kottachiruvu) in Anantapur District yesterday. This is a sequel to the dismissal of the N.T. Rama Rao ministry. In the incident, several police personnel were injured including one circle inspector and one subinspector due to stone throwing. A police jeep was burned. Barring a few stray incidents, the entire state is peaceful.

Parliament Witnesses 'Uproarious Scenes'

BK170950 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 84

[Text] Both houses of parliament today witnessed uproarious scenes over the developments in Andhra Pradesh. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned a number of times as the opposition did not allow the scheduled business to be transacted.

In the Rajya Sabha, the entire opposition wanted suspension of the question hour and the remaining business of the day to discuss the dismissal of the N.T. Rama Rao ministry. The chairman, Mr Hidayatulllah, allowed Mr L.K. Advani, Bharatiya Janata Party, to move his motion. The ruling party members however opposed it and the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr Buta Singh, wanted to make a point of order. Members from both sides shouted at each other and the treasury benches demanded that Mr Advani should not be allowed to move the motion. Amidst an uproar, the chairman adjourned the house for 10 minutes.

When the house reassembled, the chair asked some opposition members to take off black badges from their arms; otherwise, he said, he would suspend them. The leader of the house, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, opposed the motion of Mr Advani. He requested the chair to put it to vote. This triggered shouting from the opposition demanding that Mr Advani be first allowed to speak on his motion. The treasury benches opposed it. The chairman said that he had allowed Mr Advani to speak and he will have 5 minutes for explaining his viewpoints. The ruling party members strongly protesting against it said the motion has been duly opposed and it be put to vote. When the shouting continued, the chairman told a ruling party member that there should be no aspersions against the chair and it will not be tolerated. At this juncture, several members from both sides rushed toward the well of the house and started pushing each other and the house was adjourned. Later, when the house again assembled, Mr Advani said consultations were going on how the Rajya Sabha can discuss the developments in Andhra Pradesh. The deputy chairman adjourned the house till 1430 in the afternoon.

In the Lok Sabha, the speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, adjourned the house abruptly when the opposition persisted in its demand for an immediate discussion on the role of the Andhra Pradesh governor in dismissing the N.T. Rama Rao ministry. Almost the entire opposition made this demand when the house assembled in the morning. Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata, said he had given a notice of a substantive motion for discussing the conduct of the state governor. Mr Jakhar told him that it will be considered under the rule and discussed by the business advisory committee. Opposition members however were not satisfied with this and started moving into the well of the house when the speaker adjourned the house. Several opposition members continued sitting in the well of the house raising slogans. After about 30 minutes, the speaker again adjourned the house for 1 more hour. The Lok Sabha has since reassembled to take up today's business.

Later, about 100 members of parliament belonging to several opposition parties went in procession to Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] and submitted a memorandum to the president. The memorandum described the dismissal of the N.T. Rama Rao ministry as violative of the constitutional provision and demanded reinstatement of the ministry and dismissal of the Andhra Pradesh governor.

In Andhra Pradesh, barring a few incidents the situation is by and large peaceful in spite of the bundh [strike] call given by the opposition parties to protest against the dismissal of the Rama Rao ministry. At (Kavarigoda), near Hyderabad, police had to open fire to disperse a violent mob which tried to force closure of a public sector company. One person was injured in the incident. Earlier, police had used lathi [baton] charge which proved ineffective. Government offices and banks were open all over the state. In Hyderabad, shops and business establishments were open only in the old city. A skeleton [transport] service was plying with police escorts; autorickshaws were also plying.

President Singh Delivers Independence Day Message

BK131251 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Aug 84

["President's Independence Day Message to the Nation" — ISI headline]

[Text] "On the eve of the 37th anniversary of our independence, I greet you all, my fellow citizens, and extend my good wishes. This is a time for us to remember with gratitude the great sacrifices made by our people to achieve national independence. I salute all those who participated in our freedom struggle with courage and devotion. It was our great fortune that during the freedom struggle, and the years immediately following our independence, we enjoyed a wise and farsighted leadership. Foundations were laid for the emergence of a united, strong and progressive nation. Consistent with our historical heritage and the cherished values of love, peace and goodwill, the nation's leaders evolved a Constitution. It gave us a policy suited to our conditions and based on the principles of secularism, socialism and democracy.

The record of our achievements over the last 37 years since independence is noteworthy. The democratic system has taken deep roots in the soil and we have made significant progress in the economic and technological fields. These achievements, within the framework of our democratic structure and in the face of many difficulties, speak eloquently about the dedication and determination of our people. However, we still have a long way to go to achieve fuller economic and social emancipation for all our people.

The Indian political system since independence has successfully faced challenges created by the interplay of disruptive forces — internal and external. In my address to the nation on the 17th June, I had spelt out the factors leading to the tragic events in Punjab and the need to immediately restore traditional harmony and goodwill. Some misguided people have been creating disturbances in some other parts of the country also, and it is our sacred duty to check these disruptive forces.

Indian independence was the result of the collective effort of all Indians belonging to diverse faiths and religions. They responded to the call of Mahatma Gandhi and other nationalist leaders with zeal, irrespective of the region they came from or the language they spoke. Thus, our independence was a collective legacy to the attainment of which our countrymen sacrificed a lot and for the safeguarding of which all of us are now responsible.

India's economy has registered an overall upward trend since independence for which we can be justly proud. A strong and sound infrastructure has been set up. It is all due to wise planning, and hard work of our people. It has enabled the country to achieve and sustain an increasing rate of agricultural production. It gives me great pleasure to say that the country has achieved record foodgrains production of 151 million tonnes in 1983-84. It shows an increase of 17 percent over the preceding year.

In the same way, industrial infrastructure has made it possible for India to become one of the leading industrialised nations. The scientific base created at the very inception of planning has begun yielding rich dividends. India is steadily advancing in many areas of science and technology, notably in nuclear science, space and oceanography. Steadily rising production curves in agriculture and industry must be maintained so as to enable us to uplift the living standards of our people. We should also achieve eradication of poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease. This is our supreme task which should not be delayed. Any setback to this endeavour through violent agitations and extremist activities will put the clock back. It will weaken the country and perpetuate poverty. Violence is a sign of weakness and not of strength or wisdom. Let us all make a resolve not to deviate from the path of truth, love, compassion and peace and to stick to these eternal values for which India stands. In this mighty task of taking the country on the path of progress, peace and prosperity, every citizen has a role to play. I am confident that our people will endeavour in this direction and march forward in unity.

In the international field our country has been leading the Nonaligned Movement. It has continued to make a sustained effort towards the achievement of a just international economic order and reduction of political tensions in the world. The government is also continuing to work for friendly relations with the neighbouring countries and greater regional cooperation through implementation of South Asia regional cooperation programmes.

In April last, I paid state visits to Mexico and Argentina and had an exchange of views with the presidents of these two countries. On my way back from Argentina I also met at the Lima airport the president of Peru and had a friendly dialogue with him. This was the first ever state visit of a president of India to Latin America. Despite the barriers of language and the vast distance from India, the hearty welcome that I received in these countries is testimony to the great goodwill which exists for India in this region.

The race for nuclear weapons has been posing a great threat to the very existence of mankind. It is necessary for all nations to realise that freedom and democracy must lead them towards a stage where fear is not used as an instrument in international relations. There is need to build such a world order in which bigger nations should not intimidate smaller nations. And smaller countries should not have anything to fear from the bigger states. Responsibility for this, however, lies mostly on the big powers.

All countries should be free to adopt their own policies and pursue their own destinies. A desire for competition exists in every living being and the same applies to every nation. But even if a country likes to win in the competition, it should not leave a sense of defeat in other nations.

Only if the world situation can progress to such a stage, can international peace be ensured and the threat to mankind removed permanently.

It is well-known that the quality of a civilisation is recognised by its treatment of its minorities and its women. India has been fair in its treatment of both and provides opportunities to all groups to shape their destinies according to the best of their abilities. Minorities enjoy equal rights with the majority.

Women have come to occupy high places in every field — politics, law, education, science, business, industry and other professions. They have been marching ahead with men in all walks of life. The most recent illustation that comes to mind is the climbing of the Mount Everest by an Indian woman without the use of oxygen.

Our defence forces, consisting of people belonging to all parts of the country, professing different faiths and speaking different languages, are working as one team. They are animated by love for the country and complete discipline. They deserve the appreciation of the nation for their devotion to duty.

I would also like to make a mention here of the historic event this year when one of our Air Force officers undertook a space journey and signalled India's entry into the space age.

With these words, I would like to appeal to you, my countrymen, to strive ceaselessly for the progress, strength, unity and integrity of our nation. Jai Hind [Hail India]."

Minister Says Arms 'Recently' Seized in Kashmir

BK161532 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr Venkatasubbaiah, disclosed in the Rajya Sabha today that some arms and ammunition were recovered recently in Poonch sector in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the arms bear foreign markings. The minister said that security agencies and the state administration have tightened their vigil on the border.

Dock Workers To Boycott Sri Lankan Shipping

BK170757 Hong Kong AFP in English 0735 GMT 17 Aug 84

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Aug 17 (AFP) — The All India Port and Dock Workers' Federation today called for a nationwide port boycott of vessels sailing under the Sri Lankan flag or on charter to protest what it termed the "killing of Tamils," a federation spokesman said. "The boycott, effective from today, will continue till the killing of hundreds of innocent and unarmed Tamils by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces is stopped," federation President S.R. Kulkarni said.

The decision follows an apparent hardening of the Indian Government's stand on current disturbances in Sri Lanka involving Tamils and security forces.

Port and Dock Workers' Federation sources here predicted the boycott call would be widely followed. Mr. Kulkarni appealed to "the working classes of India and Sri Lanka to take the necessary joint steps to stop the insane slaughter of Tamils."

Sri Lankan High Commission sources here said they were aware of the call but refused to speculate on its likely impact on Sri Lankan shipping.

PTI Reports Pakistani Effort To Influence Sikhs

BK121326 Hong Kong AFP in English 1304 GMT 12 Aug 84

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 12 (AFP) — Pakistan has hired a top public relations agency in London to help increase its influence over Sikhs in India, India's largest news agency reported today. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI), which does not officially reflect government thinking, said Pakistan was assisting Sikh separatists in the neighbouring Indian State of Punjab.

Pakistan "envisaged indirect but effective assistance to efforts aimed at promoting the idea of an independent Sikh state of Khalistan," the agency said.

The article quoted unnamed analysts and did not identify any sources.

The Pakistan Embassy here said the article was "rubbish."

PTI said that realising the Sikhs were not being taken in by Pakistan propaganda, Islamabad hired the public relations agency, which it did not identify.

The agency advised Pakistan to give good treatment to Sikh pilgrims visiting Pakistan and to keep Sikh shrines there in good condition, PTI said.

The Indian Government has often accused unnamed foreign powers of being behind violence in Punjab, but has not officially named any country.

Indian troops killed hundreds of armed Sikh separatists in Punjab in June when capturing the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple of Amritsar, which the militants had turned into a stronghold.

Spokesman on Restrictions on Afghan Refugees

BK161601 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan will provide shelter only to those Afghan refugees who have come here after leaving their homes and hearths because of foreign military occupation of their country.

The spokesman made this observation when he was asked to clarify the situation at the Tanzimat headquarters in Peshawar, as foreign mass media consider it as the headquarters of resistance movements. The spokesman said Pakistan considers Tanzimat an organization of the refugees which comes under relevant international documents. Under these documents, a refugee is one who leaves his country out of fear of violence and oppression and does not get protection in his own country.

The spokesman said resistance in Afghanistan is totally an internal affair of that country. He reiterated that Pakistan will never allow its soil to be used for this purpose.

In reply to another question as to why the government of the Northwest Frontier Province has asked Afghan organizations to move their offices out of Peshawar, the spokesman said this decision had been taken a few months earlier. According to him, that decision was taken in view of the fact that the headquartes of Tanzimat was situated in the densely populated area of the city and, according to Afghan traditions, a large number of Afghan people go there every day in order to seek assistance from their leaders for solving their respective problems. This situation had apparently generated concern among local people because the continued and extraordinary increase in traffic began to disturb their routine of life. In view of people's concern and in order to maintain a normal way of life in Peshawar, it was decided that all bachelor Afghan refugees be asked to live out of the limits of Peshawar. This restriction was not intended for those Afghan refugees who live with their family members. They are allowed to live in Peshawar as usual.

The spokesman said that the decision to shift Afghan refugees from Peshawar was not taken in view of any bomb blast as certain quarters have been alleging. The spokesman repeated that a decision to this effect had been taken several montsh ago and its implementation was kept pending until the end of the month of Ramadan.

No Recognition for Rebels

OW161856 Hong Kong AFP in English 1823 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 16 (AFP) — Pakistan does not recognize Afghan organizations established on its territory as resistance movements and will not allow its territory to be used by any Afghan resistance group, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today.

The Afghan resistance is an "entirely indigenous" matter, the spokesman said, adding that "Afghan organisations" in Pakistan consist of refugees only.

President on Election Plans, Party System

GF111426 Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 84 P 4

[Text] Lahore, Aug 6: President Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq said here on Monday that the election schedule would be made public in a package announcement just before the polls campaign was allowed. The campaign, he added, would be of a very short duration.

The president was talking to newsmen at the Lahore Airport where he was received by the Punjab governor, Lt.-Gen. Ghulam Jilani Khan.

In reply to a question, the president said that he would like to keep his options open on the question of contesting for any office until the election schedule and the next phase of his political programme were announced.

The president, whose attention was drawn to a statement by NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] governor, Lt.-Gen. Fazal Haq maintaining that he himself (Gen. Fazal Haq) and President Zia would not be candidates for any offfice in the new set-up, was asked if he had taken a decision on the question. He said he was on the horns of dilemma: He was not in a position to say anything openly but at the same time, he could not resist giving his opinion. The correct position was that when foreign journalists wanted to know if he would be a candidate for the office of president his invariable reply was "How can I put up myself as a candidate?"

But when they asked as to what would be his reaction if the nation so wanted, "My answer is: Well, if the nation so desires, my services are available." The matter, he said, merited a serious consideration and would be decided only after the election schedule had been announced and related issues settled.

Asked if the ban on political partics would continue even after the polls had been held, he said the crucial decision as to whether the elections would be conducted on party or non-party basis, was yet to be taken. In case the decision was in favour of the party system the policy would be obvious and contact with political parties would be imminent. But if the government decided to adopt the non-party basis, even then the cooperation of those persons who considered themselves experienced in politics would be very much needed. The process of liaison with politicians would thus continue.

Asked if in view of the fact that at least two of his ministers, Mr. Ali Ahmad Talpur and Mr Muhiuddin Baluch have been making political statements, would he also give the same opportunity to those who disagreed with him on these issues, he said as far as he knew, the ministers had not been making controversial statements. When pointed out that Mr. Talpur had advocated the abrogation of the 1973 Constitution while Mr. Baluch had expressed himself in the favour of the non-party system of elections, the president said in that case those who disagreed with him, would also have a right to express their opinion on these issues — the Constitution and the mode of elections.

He said he would like to make it clear that there was a ban on the publication of only such material as could promote con-

troversy or create dissension. Asked as to when the election schedule would be made public, he said it would be a package announcement which would be made public just before the election campaign was allowed. The campaign, he said, would be of a very short duration.

He declined to comment on a report appearing in Monday's issue of a national daily which said that elections would be held in February on non-party basis. He said the government had taken a decision on the question but would announce it at the appropriate moment.

Asked if the bandits in Sind which had become very frequent now were simple cases of robberies or also had political overtones, he said both the factors were there. There were simple cases of individual crime on the part of some elements who thought that roadside bandits were easy but at the same time some cases also had political overtones.

Asked if the postponement of the visit of Pakistan foreign secretary to Moscow would have repercussion on the Geneva talks on Afghanistan, he said "I hope not. I am hopeful that the Soviet attitude would be positive and there would be progress in the talks."

Answering a question, he said the announcement to be made on Aug 14 would be important but it would have nothing to do with any political issue.

Asked if he believed that the statement by Democratic presidential candidate Mr. Mondale amounted to an interference in the internal affairs of Paksitan, he said, "It would be better if we let the American politics remain confined to the boundaries of the United States."

'Significant' Gas Field Discovered in Punjab

GF111432 Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 84 p 10

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 6: Dr Mohammad Asad Khan, federal minister in charge of petroleum, said here on Monday that the discovery of the Nandpur gas field by the OGDC [Oil and Gas Development Corporation] 65 km northeast of Multan was among the most significant ones, with estimated burnable gas of 16 million cubic feet, and the first one in the plains of Punjab.

Dr Asad Khan, who was speaking at a press conference here, said that while the results of the Nandpur gas fields were being evaluated, it was hoped that it would take about 18 to 24 months to complete arrangements of the gas transport and transmission, especially to the northern areas.

The petroleum minister said that the present discovery of gas in Nandpur by the Oil and Gas Development Corporation (OGDC) was made after a lapse of seven years, subsequent to the Pirkoh gas field, which was found in December 1977. The drilling completed four days ago, was done with the help of a Soviet rig.

Nandpur's structure is a subsurface feature, Dr Asad said, and it was delineated after extensive geological and geophysical surveys carried out in Kabirwala Concession area.

The area of the closed structure at the top of the prolific cretaceous formation is 19 sq. km.

The petroleum minister further stated: Based on the results of geological logging and drilling data, one zone in Jurassic formation and two zones in cretaceous formation of between 2,070m to 1,669m depths were selected for production testing. Testing of these zones has been completed, resulting in the commercial discovery of gas. Production rate on optimum choke is as follows:

Zone-I: 10 million cubic feet of gas per day, methane 16 percent.

Zone-II: 7.71 million cubic feet of gas per day, methane 38 percent.

Zone-III: 8.30 million cubic feet of gas per day, methane 49 percent.

This is the first discovery of oil or gas in the vast Punjab plains, and has greatly enhanced the prospects of finding more oil and gas deposits in the area. OGDC is continuing its exploratory efforts to delineate new prospects for drilling. Seismic surveys are in progress in Kabirwala connection area. OGDC is planning to drill the recently delineated prospects located 17 km north of the Nandpur structure.

NAWA-E WAQT on Need for Greater National Unity

GF121534 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 9 Aug 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Fundamental Need Is for National Unity!"]

[Excerpts] In 2 weeks, Pakistani and Afghan representatives will begin their next round of talks at Geneva. Pakistan's permanent representative, Mr S.M. Shahnawaz, has had a special meeting on these talks with Mr Diego Cordoves, the UN secretary general's special emissary.

The solution to the Afghan issue is based entirely on the attitude of the Soviet Union. The Babrak Karmal government is a mere subsidiary to Moscow. During the course of the previous two rounds of talks, Soviet representatives were at hand to give guidance and advice to the Kabul delegation. The truth about promised Soviet assistance will now come to light before the world in the next round of indirect talks to be held in Geneva — whether the Soviet Union genuinely desires a solution to the issue or whether it wants to consolidate its tyrannical hold and continue its charade of talks for the sake of talks so that it may crush the mujahidin's resistance and swallow and amalgamate this traditionally free and nonaligned country as it has done to other Muslim countries in Central Asia.

The Soviet Union's attitude on the Afghan issue is as enigmatic as it is important. President Ziaul Haq says that once the Soviet Union has assured us that it will withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, we should believe it.

But the Soviet Union has accelerated its brutal military operations and extended them and is also exerting pressure on its ally, India, to step up its vindictiveness against Pakistan. At the same

time, it offers Pakistan economic and technical assistance and expresses the desire for friendship and cordial ties with Pakistan.

The objective of this dual pressure on Pakistan by the Soviet Union and India is that Pakistan should buckle down before India and thus admit to Soviet superiority. For Pakistan, this two-pronged pressure is not a minor matter. As a result of Soviet troops in Afghanistan and the concomitant situation in Pakistan, the United States has agreed to sell arms to Pakistan to strengthen its defense. Although the Reagan administration is trying to fulfill its responsibilities, the influential Zionist lobby and pro-Indian circles have kept up such a vicious campaign with lies and overt mischief-mongering that the people of Pakistan are forced to wonder whether they can depend on the United States. If the Democratic Party wins in November, then the pattern of U.S.-Pakistani relations which has emerged during the Reagan era will become garbled.

Hence, under the present situation, there is no choice for Pakistan except to continue its assistance and moral support for Afghanistan which is being expressed by the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement and on the international level, and to strive for greater internal unity at home in a meaningful manner. What is cause for concern and amazement is that while our leaders are talking of better relations with the Soviet Union and India, and rightly so, no attempt is being made or interest shown for internal national unity and promotion of understanding and mutual confidence.

SRI LANKA

TULF To Participate in Round Table Meeting

BK171024 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Aug 84

[Text] Two political parties in Sri Lanka have decided to stay away from the round table conference scheduled for today in Colombo for the solution of ethnic problem. The parties are All Ceylon Tamil Congress and the Sri Lanka Communist Party. They announced their decision in protest against the military action in Tamil areas which left about 100 Tamilians dead during the last 12 days. They also alleged that the government is not interested in a political solution to the problem.

The main Tamil party in Sri Lanka, Tamil United Liberation Front, announced its decision to participate in the round table conference. It also plans to send a letter to the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, on the anti-Tamil violence. One of the participants to the proposed talks, the Ceylon Workers Congress [CWC], warned that any attempt to find a military solution will have serious consequences. The CWC president, Mr S. Thondaman, who is also a minister in the Jayewardene government, alleged the lack of urgency in finding a political solution to the problem.

Meanwhile, the Lok Dal president, Mr Charan Singh, has said that military operation against the Tamils in Sri Lanka constitutes a genocide and a violation of human rights. In a statement issued in New Delhi, Mr Charan Singh said Sri Lanka being very close to Indian shore, the continued killings of Tamils by the government forces will create instability in the region and may tempt superpower involvement in the area.

The Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, suggested the prime minister to convene a meeting of all party leaders to arrive at a consensus on the Sri Lanka Tamil issue.

Delhi Says Cabinet Admits Army Action in Mannar

BK160848 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] The Sri Lankan Cabinet has admitted that the Army burned more than 100 shops and attacked civilians in the northern town of Mannar earlier this week. The transport minister, Mr M.H. Mohamed, who visited Jaffna, has submitted his report. A three-member Cabinet subcommittee will look into the proposals suggested by him.

A government spokesman said in Colombo yesterday the subcommittee will comprise the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, Mr Mohamed and the Mannar District minister, Mr M. A. Mahroof.

Meanwhile, the situation in the town remains tense with many people still hiding, being afraid of another Army attack. According to the BBC no further incident has been reported since yesterday morning.

'Retribution' Threatened for Shipping Delays

LD171106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Aug 84

[From the headlines]

[Text] Speaking during today's Friday prayers ceremonies, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: Our aim is to punish the Iraqi Ba'th Party and Saddam. We do not insist that we should attain this right of ours definitely by military pressure. Should a government desired by the Iraqi nation come to power, we would be ready to overlook our rights, otherwise we will retrieve all our rights and losses from the warmongers.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the plot hatched by arrogance and its lackeys in mining the Suez Canal, addressed the United States and its allies in the region and emphasized: Would a single one of our ships be delayed in the Suez Canal under the pretext of inspecting its cargo, one of your clique's ships would be delayed in the Hormuz Strait as retribution.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,821

LD161625 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug 16, IRNA — Over 86 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded over the 24 hours preceding Thursday as the Muslim combatants of Iran, barraging enemy positions and supply routes throughout the warfronts, checked the latter's activities and movements as well as destroying more than 37 armament emplacements and three bunkers.

Announcing the above Thursday evening, the 1821st Joint Staff Command Communique added that the enemy has also lost three artillery pieces, two communication bases, three vehicles and one munitions depot in the said operations.

In the Marivan front of the northwestern theatre alone, more than 60 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded when the Iranian defenders smashed seven weaponry emplacements, three artillery pieces and two pieces of engineering equipment.

The communique further said that an Iraqi armoured unit and one engineering vehicle column were subjected to the Islamic forces' fire which silenced the fire of the armoured unit and routed the vehicle column in the southern fronts Wednesday morning.

It concluded that the Iraqi long-range artillery fire damaged six more homes and caused fire in a sector of Abadan's residential areas during Wednesday.

Abadan, Khorramshahr Receive Iraqi Shelling

LD161636 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] Ahvaz, Aug 16, IRNA — Six homes were damaged in Abadan on Wednesday and a point in the city caught fire by the Iraqi long-range artillery fire.

The city of Khorramshahr and its villages were also subjected to the heavy fire of the enemy, in which some damage was inflicted during the same period.

12 Iraqi Soldiers Killed on Bakhtaran Fronts

LD161805 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug 16, IRNA -- Two group and individual bunkers, one vehicle and one observation post of the enemy forces were demolished and 12 Iraqi soldiers were killed by the heavy fire of Islamic defenders in the western fronts of Bakhtaran, during the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, one Iraqi soldier surrendered to the Islamic combatants on one of the Bakhtaran fronts Wednesday.

Guards' Corps, Others Leave for Fronts

GF170530 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Aug 84

[Text] In a continuation of the active presence of the forces of monotheism on the fronts of the war against the Zionist enemy, a large group of noble members of the mobilization front and the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps from Bushehr Province and the cities of Tehran, Neyshabur, and Najafabad left for the warfronts during the past 2 days to assist the Islamic combatants.

Similarly, a group of crusading experts and technicians and logistical, law enforcement, and service forces from the headquarters for support to the war from the reconstruction crusade department of Dashtestan District also left for the scene of battle of truth versus falsehood during the same period.

'Final Warning' Given to Kordestan Rebels

LD161840 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] Reza'iyeh W. Azerbaijan Pr. Aug. 16 IRNA — In a final warning to counterrevolutionary groups in the Kordestan region of Iran, the Hamzeh Seyyedo Shohada (Joint Army-IRGC) Headquarters today urged splinter groups to "wake up and surrender to the Islamic forces and receive a kindly treatment."

Otherwise, said a statement by the HQ, as soon as "the great purging operation" starts in Kordestan region, they would be granted no pardon and would have to accept an "abject death."

The statement said the all-out operation to purge the whole Kordestan of counterrevolutionary elements and "the enemies of God and the Koran" would start soon and that the treacherous splinter groups would be left no alternative but "to die or flee to the fold of the criminal Saddam."

"Is it not a disgrace for an honourable Kurdish man to be dependent on Iraq...a country which is behind the massacre of the Kurdish brothers and sisters in Baneh, Mahabad, Marivan, Sar Dasht, Piranshahr, in order to serve the interests of the superpowers?" the statement asked.

In related news, the commander of the ground forces, Col. Sayyad Shirazi inspected the combat units at the Piranshahr garrison Wednesday. The commander is currently in West Azarbaijan Province to study military issues.

In a gathering of the Islamic combatants at the garrison, the ground forces commander made some remarks on the Iraqi imposed war, the issues of the region and final warning to anti-revolutionaries.

In another development, it was reported Thursday that 41 members of the counterrevolutionary groups in various cities of the West Azarbaijan Province have surrendered to the Islamic forces and received writs of pardon in the month of Mordad (July 23-Aug. 22).

They also handed over 18 weapons with their ammunitions to the Iranian officials.

Ayatollah Montazeri Receives Velayati, Envoys
LD161645 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA — Ayatollah Montazeri received Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Iranian ambassadors and charge d'affaires to Asia and Oceania, in Qom on Wednesday.

He told the officials that the superpowers view Islam as a threat to their colonial interests and therefore attack the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Therefore, Ayatollah Montazeri added, all social groups as well as the committed ulema should act with awareness and responsibility.

He further called on the ulema to lead simple lives and quoted Islamic sayings that leaders should have lives as simple as the poorest people.

Ayatollah Montazeri also said that the diplomatic corp should obtain greater means of propagation and the Foreign Ministry should take the issue to the cabinet.

Montazeri also discussed the Majlis vote of confidence granted to Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi and (the majority of) his cabinet and said capable individuals should head ministries.

Khamene'i, Information Minister Hold Talks
LD161815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] Minister of Information Mohammadi Reyshahri met and had talks with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this afternoon.

During the meeting Mr Khamene'i issued the necessary guidelines concerning organization and restructuring of the Information Ministry, and ways of utilizing existing information resources.

President Receives Public Security Minister
GF170600 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Aug 84

[Text] Brother President 'Ali Khamene'i yesterday received Public Security Minister [Wazir al-'Amm] Mohammadi-Reyshahri.

During the audience, the brother president issued directives on the ministry's organization and work.

Deputy Foreign Minister Comments on Far East Trip
GF170902 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Aug 84

[Text] Mr Kazempur-Ardabili, deputy minister in charge of economic and international affairs at our country's Foreign Ministry who recently toured the countries of Japan, the PRC, and the DPRK, returned to Tehran yesterday afternoon.

The deputy foreign minister answered our correspondent's question in an interview. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Mr Kazempur-Ardabili: Concerning your tour to Japan, the PRC, and the DPRK, would you tell us the results of your visit and your discussions with the relevant authorities of those countries?

[Kazempur-Ardabili] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. On the whole, following the escalation of tension in the Persian Gulf because of Iraq, the renewed use of chemical weapons, and similarly other measures which culminated in the exacerbation of tensions in the region, the Islamic Republic feels the need for diplomatic contacts with various countries of the world to explain the situation in the region. Due to this, it considers it necessary, from time to time, to send delegations at different levels to various countries so that in this way it can take effective and explanatory measures [as heard] in this regard.

During this tour, I went first to the DPRK with a message from Mr Khamene'i, the respected president of the Islamic Republic, for Mr Kim il-Song, which contained relevant points and elucidated the acceleration of tension by the Saddam regime in the area and, similarly, the use of chemical weapons. In reply, Mr Kim il-Song condemned the use of such weapons and deemed its use as "an inhuman act." Then we went to the PRC.

There we embarked on discussions on topics of mutual interest including the elaboration of the topics which I mentioned before, with various authorities, the acting foreign minister, and other officials. They also expressed their opposition to the use of chemical weapons and their regret at the Iraqi attacks against oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and such matters.

In Japan as well we had talks on the above topics and exchanged opinions on various issues in the region and we conveyed a message from Mr Musavi, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to Mr Nakasone which contained points in particular about the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran vis-a-vis the imposed war, the use of the chemical weapons, attacks on tankers, the question of security in the Persian Gulf,

and other such issues. Foreign Minister Abe explained in detail the stance of the Japanese Government on the difficulties existing in the region and, while declaring a ban on the export of toxic and chemical materials and the imposition of a control on materials that could be used in the manufacture of chemical weapons, denounced their use.

Then Mr Nakasone, to whom we had handed the message by Mr Musavi, expressed his opinion on the message, endorsed the stance, and, referring to the fact that Iraq initiated the aggression against us, expressed his regret on the use of chemical weapons. Doubts and ambiguities which existed regarding the Islamic Republic's stance on matters pertaining to the region were discussed at length and in detail. All three countries were made aware of the Islamic Republic's views in this regard. We intend to present a plan for the condemnation of Iraq at a future session of the UN General Assembly, and it was necessary that such steps should take place for a clarification of these stances before the convening of the session. Such contacts and exchanges of opinions with all countries to make world public opinion and various countries aware of our stance seem necessary.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did you also have talks on economic cooperation with the officials of these countries?

[Kazempur-Ardabili] Regarding Japan, in the light of their interest in the speedy implementation of the joint petrochemical project, they promised that the number of Japanese technicians will increase so that by the end of this month there will be 600 engineers and experts on the project. Similarly they requested that an addendum to the present agreement on the petrochemical complex should be ratified by the Islamic Majlis so that we (?acquire) the positive response of the government in this regard. We will follow this up in the Majlis and we are hopeful that soon this will also be solved. We detailed the Islamic Republic of Iran's expression of willingness to expand commercial and economic ties with these countries and also our expectations regarding such subjects as the purchase of more oil, and, in particular, with Japan on their efforts to transfer technology to the Islamic Republic of Iran. I think that on the whole the Islamic Republic of Iran's ties with each of these three countries will be satisfactory, increasing and [based on] understanding.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Energy Ministry Statement on Power Shortage

LD161817 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] An Energy Ministry statement has announced: Owing to the occurence of a technical fault in the Martyr Salimi power station in Neka, since midday today there has been a shortage of power in the national grid and as a result there were extensive blackouts. Fortunately the fault is gradually being removed and it is predicted that in several hours' time the grid will return to normal. It is obvious that consumers' economy in power consumption would have a considerable effect on reducing blackouts and the power grid's return to normal.

Guardian Council Spokesman on Council Duties

LD162131 [Editorial report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 16 August broadcasts a 15-minute recorded interview with Guardian Council spokesman Emami-Kashani on the duties of the council, as well as its area of operation. Emami-Kashani, answering a question put to him by an unidentified correspondent in the course of the interview which took place today devotes the first 5 minutes of his remarks to the structure of the Guardian Council and the fact that of the 12 Council members, 6 are appointed by "the leader" and the rest by the Majlis. He explains the main duties and functions of the Council, quoting various articles of the Constitution. Emami-Kashani then answers a question on whether ministers of state — or ministers without portfolio — are answerable to the Majlis if they are summoned by the latter.

"Considering that a Cabinet minister has two functions, one executive and two to answer to the Majlis and Majlis deputies who question his duties, let us look at the state of the minister without portfolio. Is the minister without portfolio, whose function is to consult and advise, truly an advisor? Is he not an executive as well? Or is he actually an executive and nominal advisor? Or is he both? Is he both an advisor as well as an executive?

"The Guardian Council believes that when the question of advisor is raised, then it negates executive. This means that he is no longer answerable to the Majlis. Actually, we have no minister as the minister without portfolio in the Constitution.

"Supposing that he is both advisor and executive, then Article 141 questions this, saying why are you holding two posts? Why do you advise, while functioning in an executive capacity as well?

"Consequently, there remains no doubt that we have no such thing as minister without portfolio in the Constitution; there is no doubt that the existence of minister without portfolio is in violation of the Constitution; it is in contradiction to the Constitution. Therefore, the Guardian Council has a duty in accordance with Article 98 of the Constitution and is entrusted with interpreting the Constitution. This is an issue which has been raised by the Majlis, by an official source in the Majlis, by the Majlis deputy speaker to which the Guardian Council answered. It is on the basis of this reply, forwarded to the Majlis in 1983 that they are required to act; for the view expressed by the Guardian Council is a writ, it is a religious writ; it is a legal writ; for there are 12 members in the Guardian Council, but why 12? Twelve people of whom 6 have been appointed by the leader personally. We have no other institution in which six jurisconsults are appointed by the sacred position of the leader. As for the other six members, they are appointed by the Majlis."

Police Chief Interviewed on Drugs, War

GF170716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Colonel Samimi, the police chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran, told a press, radio, and television interview that due to the efforts of the country's law enforcement officials, more

than 40 tons of narcotics had been discovered since the beginning of the victory of the Islamic revolution and some 65,000 persons arrested in this connection.

Explaining the activity of the police officials all over the country with regard to the imposed war and the participation of police personnel in this war, he said: From the commencement of the imposed war until now, police department personnel have been dispatched voluntarily in 30 groups to the fronts of the imposed war, of whom 255 persons have been martyred, 11 are missing in action, 80 have been disabled, and 203 wounded.

'Handicapped Martyrs' March in Al-Madinah

GF161607 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Excerpt] A group of the handicapped martyrs of the Islamic Revolution, who arrived in Al-Madinah yesterday, held a march today from their residences to the mosque of Prophet Muhammad, may God be pleased with him. They were shouting "God is great" and exhortation slogans. Masses of Iranians and non-Iranian, whose eyes were brimming with tears throughout this procession, kissed the faces and the amputated arms of the handicapped. These masses of people shouted slogans calling for the death for imperialism and spelling out their outrage against international arrogance and those who triggered the war which the Saddam regime kindled against the Islamic Revolution.

Husayn Orders Execution of 50 Iraqi Officers

LD161811 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 16 Aug 84

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbaijan Pr. Aug. 16, IRNA — More than 50 Iraqi Army officers have been arrested and executed on Aug. 6th at the orders of Saddam Husayn, on charges of Islamic and anti-regime activities.

This followed increased discontent among the Muslim people with the Iraqi regime, the disobediance of military personnel and expansion of the Islamic movement in Iraq.

Tehran on 'Vote of Confidence' for Government

GF170646 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0420 GMT 17 Aug 84

[From "A Pause With the Events" program]

[Text] This week was an important one because the Majlis gave a vote of confidence to the government of Brother Engineer Musavi.

This week, the future of the government and its members was determined. The government was able to receive great support from the representatives of the Muslim Iranian people.

The vote of confidence for the prime minister and his Cabinet members is a mark of strength of the Government of the Islamic Republic in one of the most critical and important stages.

This strength reflects the support the Islamic Government receives from the Majlis; more than any other system claiming to be democratic, despite the circumstances of the imposed war.

Despite the war, circumstances, and the attempts by the enemies of the Islamic Revolution to raise world public opinion against the Islamic Revolution, the Islamic system has been able to foil the rancorous campaigns against it, continue its war against the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy, and firmly install the pillars of a new democracy which has surprised a world which advocates democracy.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's stability and strength is surprising the outside world which is now seeing how a system which relies on the great support of a people who adore the revolution and Islam undertake their political movements with confidence in an unprecedented manner, even in very old systems.

The success the Goverment of the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved over the past 3 years in these critical circumstances the republic is going through and the crises the Middle East is witnessing show the strength of the Islamic system. The world has to acknowledge this fact.